

### **REMARKS**

Claims 5-18, 23, 24, 26-29, 33-36, and 43-46 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 19-22, 25, 30-32, 37-42, and 47 have been canceled without prejudice herewith. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 5-18, 23, 24, 26-29, 33-36, and 43-46 subject to being amended to independent form. These allowed claims have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). Therefore, Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance.

It is noted Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter recited in claims presented in the original application.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,  
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Haruo Yawata', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Haruo Yawata  
Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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